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Area towns set HALLOWEEN Trick-or-Treat Hours

The Village of Lawrence will hold Halloween trick-or-treat hours and Trunk-or-Treat in the Lawrence Village Park on Friday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The Village of Lawton will hold Halloween trick-or-treat hours on Friday, Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Village of Mattawan will hold Halloween trick-or-treat hours on Friday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Village of Paw Paw will hold Halloween trick or treat hours on Friday Oct. 31, with no designated time.

Do you need help? Write Us!

Mike Wilcox
Owner/Publisher

Every year, as the Christmas season draws near, I'm reminded just how generous our communities can be. For nearly two decades, Wilcox Newspapers has hosted what's become one of my favorite traditions: our Annual Christmas Wish Program.

It started simply enough. We asked readers who were struggling to write in and tell us what would make their Christmas a little brighter. The idea was to connect local families in need with local people who wanted to help. Over the years, it's grown into something truly special—and this year, we're doing it again.

Lately, I've heard from more families than ever who are struggling to make ends meet. The rising cost of everyday necessities, from groceries and gas to rent and utilities, has stretched household budgets thin. It's been a tough year for a lot of people, and many are finding themselves in need of a little extra help just to get by.

If you or your family are going through a difficult time, I encourage you to write to us and be as specific as you can. Tell us about your situation, your family, and how we might help make your holiday a little brighter. Most importantly, explain why you need our help. We prefer you email us at wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com, but if you don't have access to a computer, you can always mail a letter to P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010.

Over the years, I've been amazed at the generosity that pours in from our readers and advertisers. One afternoon, while vacuuming our new office, I noticed an envelope on the floor. Inside were ten $100 bills—no note, no name, just a quiet act of kindness from someone who wanted to help. Another time, a donor sent $2,000. Several more gave $1,000 each. For a Scrooge like me, it's humbling to see just how deeply people here care for one another.

Last year alone, we were able to raise more than $20,000 in cash and gifts, helping over 70 families enjoy the holidays. This year, our goal is even higher. We hope to assist at least 100 families within our circulation areas.

I've always believed in the saying, "We take care of our own," and nowhere is that truer than in the communities we serve. So, if you legitimately need help this Christmas, and I stress LEGITIMATELY, please reach out to us. And if you're in a position to give, know that your generosity can change someone's holiday, and maybe their outlook on life, for the better.

Third Annual Fall in the Courthouse Celebration to be held Friday, Oct. 31

PAW PAW – The third annual "Fall in the Courthouse Celebration" will be held Friday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 5 p.m.at the Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw St., here.

It will feature an afternoon filled with seasonal fun, community connection, and fall spirit. The annual event invites community members, courthouse staff, and partner agencies to come together and enjoy lighthearted festivities. Guests can look forward to themed decorations, treats, and maybe even a few tricks.

"The Fall in the Courthouse Celebration is a wonderful opportunity for the court to open its doors to the community and share in the spirit of the season. It is a chance for staff, partners, and visitors to celebrate together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. By welcoming families for celebrations like this, the court helps create positive experiences that build trust, strengthen community connections, and make the courthouse a more comfortable place for everyone, said Van Buren County Trial Court Administrator Ryan Smith.

All are welcome to attend, and costumes are encouraged. "Whether you stop by for a quick treat or stay to enjoy the full event, we invite you to celebrate autumn and community at the courthouse," said Smith.

Maple Lake Pedestrian Bridge scheduled for completion next month

The Village of Paw Paw reported on Monday Oct. 27, that the Maple Island pedestrian bridge replacement project should be completed by Nov. 21, following a short delay at the start of the project to reposition support pilings. In addition to the new bridge there will be a bench and waste receptacle added at the streetside end of the bridge, and an ADA accessible pathway leading to a new boat dock on the island.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Work Continues on Briggs Dam in Paw Paw

The Briggs Dam replacement project remains on schedule for substantial completion by the end of the year, according to the Village of Paw Paw. Excavation work is completed, and the project is moving from the "Tearing down" phase to the "Building up" phase. Excavation did uncover the remains of the old water powered grist mill that occupied the dam, and some of the old wooden beams and concrete foundations had to be removed. However, this did not necessitate any design changes, and the concrete labyrinth construction will proceed as planned. The new wooden bridge is expected to be delivered and installed in mid-December. Final site clean-up will take place in the spring.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Worker falls into reactor cavity at Palisades

A worker received minor injuries when he fell into a reactor cavity at the Palisades Nuclear Plant in Covert Township on Tuesday, Oct. 21, according to Nick Culp, senior manager of government affairs and communications for Holtec International.

Culp released a statement that said, "While performing work inside the containment building, a Palisades contractor fell into a pool of water located above the reactor. The contractor was wearing all required personal protective equipment, including a life vest, which is standard when working near the pool without a barrier in place."

Culp continued, "The worker was promptly assisted from the water, evaluated, monitored, and decontaminated for removable contamination in accordance with established industry standards and safety procedures. Radiological assessments are ongoing and are expected to confirm exposure well below regulatory and administrative dose limits."

Culp concluded, "The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was properly notified and a review of human performance factors contributing to the incident is underway. The worker sustained minor injuries from their fall and has since returned to work."

Three fire departments fight barn fire in Casco Twp

South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) firefighters, with assistance from Ganges and Lee township departments, battled a stubborn barn fire in Casco township of Allegan County overnight.

The fire on 109th Avenue near 61st Street was first reported at 7:10 p.m. Thursday. Firefighters remained on scene for two hours.

They were dispatched again at 3:20 a.m. today (Friday) for a rekindle. The fire in the upper level of the cluttered structure made it too dangerous to conduct an interior attack.

The cause remains under investigation.

(Photos courtesy SHAES)

Two dogs, nineteen puppies perish in fire

Two adult dogs and a liter of 19 (nineteen) days-old mastiff puppies perished in a fire that destroyed an out-building on property in Arlington Township early Sunday morning.

Bangor Community Fire Department firefighters, assisted by Columbia Township FD and South Haven Area Emergency Services, responded to 50205 M-43 at 4:50 a.m.

The structure was fully engulfed in flames upon arrival.

A heat lamp near straw is believed to be the cause.

Ocker hits century mark

Don Ocker turned 100 years old on 10/29/25.

"Operation Holiday Cheer" to be held Saturday, Nov. 8

PAW PAW - Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., (BSMA) will host the 19th annual Support the Troops "Operation Holiday Cheer" packing event, Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Paw Paw Lions Club, 59050 County Road 665, Paw Paw, beginning at 1 p.m.

Blue Star Mothers are still looking for any addresses of local men and women currently serving, both deployed and stateside. Individuals are asked to send the exact address along with their name and phone number to: president.mi179@bluestarmothers.us or mail to: Blue Star Mothers, P.O. Box 406, Paw Paw, MI, 49079. The name and address may also be texted to: Debbie at (269) 491-4685.

Items can still be donated to the care packages. Donations can be dropped at drop boxes that have been placed at the Bangor Simpson United Methodist Church, Gobles United Methodist Church, Lawton Evangelical Church, Biggby in Paw Paw and Mattawan, First Congregational Church, Kalamazoo, and First Congregational Church, South Haven, until Nov. 5. Alternatively, donations may be dropped off at the Paw Paw Lions Club on Friday, Nov. 7, from 2 to 5 p.m.

If items need to be picked up, individuals may contact Debbie Siwula at (269) 491-4685 or Linda Kotecki at (269) 767-0306 and leave a message. All donations need to be dropped off prior to event day to allow volunteers time to sort items. No donations will be accepted on event day.

Monetary donations to help cover the cost of shipping may be made payable to "Blue Star Mothers MI 179" and mailed to P.O. Box 406, Paw Paw, MI, 49079. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information on Blue Star Mothers, go to www.bluestarmothers.org or visit the "Blue Star Mothers of Southwest Michigan Chapter 179" Facebook page.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Dispute not about beloved Bunde's Bakery

By James Windell

So, it wasn't about Bunde's Bakery after all. In fact, everyone loves Bunde's Bakery. It's just that residents surrounding Bunde's Bakery at 89 N. Shore Drive in South Haven don't want any other business to occupy that property at some future time.

That was the sentiment that came across loud and clear during the South Haven City Council meeting on Monday, October 20, 2025.

The love fest for Bunde's started with the very first speaker during the public comments portion of the City Council meeting. Tom Capps, who is a candidate for City Council in Ward 2, came to the podium and talked about his regard for Bunde's Bakery owner, Jim Sankofski. "I've known Jim Sankofski his whole life," Capps said. "His family has been here for 70 years… They've been an integral part of the community."

Capps was followed to the podium by Philip Roehn who stated: "We're not opposed to the bakery. We support Bunde's Bakery – and we want it to stay." He said that he and others were opposed to "arbitrarily designating 89 North Shore Drive as commercial." Roehn closed by advising, "Don't change a good thing."

Other citizens followed Roehn praising Bunde's Bakery and lauding the city council for changing the language in their instructions to the Planning Commission for revising the Master Plan.

Both Jim Sankofski, owner of Bunde's Balery, and his wife, Rachel, also spoke from the podium. "I want to thank the city staff, my friends ("Who number in the hundreds"), my customers ("Who number in the thousands"), and my family for their support in this matter," Sankofski said.

When Rachel Sankofski had her turn, she, too, offered her thanks. "I thank you for all you've done. I know that this has been an arduous process, and we are really appreciative and we want to continue to operate our business… We thank you for what you do."

When the City Council agenda reached Resolution 2025-35, the resolution that offered a statement to the Planning Commission for guidance in revising the Master Plan, it was anti-climatic.

In introducing the resolution, City Manager Kate Hosier told the City Council that "We need to state very specific instructions to the Planning Commission so they can make changes."

Hosier said that the proposed resolution replaced the previous Resolution 2025-34 with the language that the City Council seemed to indicate it desired at the last City Council meeting. Immediately after this, councilman George Sleeper made a motion that Resolution 2025-35 be adopted. However, after the motion was seconded, councilwoman Mary Hosley suggested striking one clause in the statement. That suggestion was quickly approved and the resolution then read:

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that,

1. The City Council, in accordance with Section 43(4) of the MPEA, hereby rejects the 2025 Update to the City of South Haven Master Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission and adopts this Resolution as its statement of objections.
2. The City Council desires that the Master Plan provide additional guidance regarding the Manufactured Housing Community (MHC) land use and zoning district. Specifically, the City Council desires to that language be added to the Master Plan clarifying that 1) MHC would not be an appropriate land use in areas with environmental contamination without proper remediation proposed, 2) any MHC land use must be compatible with the surrounding area, 3) that maps 9-16 related to coastal resilience be considered in any decision to rezone property to MHC.
3. The City Council desires that the future land use map designation for the property at the corner of North Shore Dr. and Oak Ct. (specifically 89 North Shore Drive as Bunde's Bakery) be changed from Commercial to Multifamily – Attached Residential. The City Council has concerns that the current designation in the future land use map will lead to the erosion of the residential character of the neighborhood.
4. The City Council desires that additional language be incorporated into the Master Plan to specify that the property on Baseline Rd. (commonly referred to as 120 Baseline) has been identified as an area where residential land use is appropriate for single family homes or attached residential dwellings and not resorts specifically workforce and missing middle housing, would be most appropriate."

The resolution was then unanimously passed without further discussion. It now goes to the Planning Commission for revision of the Master Plan.

Ex-Lawton Schools Clerk Charged in $100K Embezzlement Case

A former Lawton Community Schools employee is facing felony charges after police say she stole more than $100,000 from the district over a two-year period.

Andria Rice-Keister, who previously worked as a bookkeeper and clerk, was arraigned Oct. 24 on a single count of embezzlement of $50,000 to $100,000, a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

According to Lawton Police, the district reported possible financial discrepancies on Sept. 22. Following an internal review, investigators submitted their findings to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for charges.

Superintendent Ben Bandfield addressed the situation in a video message released Tuesday, calling the discovery "deeply frustrating."

"As a taxpayer, community member and father of three Lawton students, I know how hard people work for every dollar that supports our schools," Bandfield said. "It's frustrating to see that trust broken."

In a statement posted the same day, Lawton Community Schools said it is working closely with law enforcement and outside auditors "to ensure a thorough and transparent process." The district said it has already begun strengthening financial oversight and internal controls to prevent similar issues.

"While we are limited in what we can share due to the ongoing legal process, we want to assure our community that we are taking this matter very seriously," the district said.

Bandfield added that the district has recovered all but about $2,500 of the funds believed to have been stolen.

"While I wish this never happened, we responded quickly and responsibly," he said. "We'll continue improving our systems to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Van Buren District Library millage renewal to be on November 4, ballot

According to an information sheet provided by the Van Buren District Library, the 2015 supplemental millage allowed Van Buren District Library (VBDL) to open all seven locations six days per week and significantly expand community programming.

Renewing this millage ensures VBDL can maintain these hours and services, including: 2,067 events, classes, and programs offered in 2024 (up from 647 in 2014) A growing collection of eBooks, audiobooks, and streaming content (over 15 percent of VBDL's circulation of items that it loaned in 2024) 420 mobile Internet hotspots (expanded from 210 in 2022).

New initiatives like Transparent Language, free legal assistance via Michigan Legal Help, and the library's latest service, Media by Mail, which provides free delivery of library materials to those who are homebound due to infirmity or age.

What will this cost the average homeowner?

Renewing the 1984 mill tax will cost approximately $14 per year for a home with a true cash value of $220,703 and a taxable value of $69,215, the average true cash and taxable values for homes in VBDL's service area according to VanBuren County's 2025 Equalization Report.

If the library does not receive the millage renewal?

VBDL could be forced to reduce services over time, including potential cuts to digital services like hoopla and mobile Internet hotspot lending.

For more information, visit vbdl.org/about/millagerenewal2025/

Paw Paw Township Board to sell township owned building

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw Township Board went into a brief closed session Monday Oct. 13, to discuss the sale of township property at 104/106 Municipal Lane, Paw Paw.

Returning to open session, the board approved a motion to list the 104/106 Municipal Lane property for sale at $150,000 and not to accept any offer lower than the amount discussed in closed session.

Paw Paw Township Transfer Station passes were set for 2026. They include non-resident fee of $75 for a yearly pass or $6 per 18-gallon tote. A dump pass will be lowered to one-yard, effective Jan 1, 2026.

In another area, Paw Paw Township Trustee Dennis Reynolds said the Paw Paw Quick Response team is officially closed. They are still working with Bronson to set something new, however, they are having difficulty with Workers' Compensation Insurance.

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Kids enjoy Pumpkin Boo Walk at museum

Halloween festivities are abounding in the South Haven area. An annual highlight was the Pumpkin Boo Walk sponsored by the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum. Kids and parents were "greeted" by Dr. Bailey, aka museum director Dan Williamson, and then took a walk through the backwoods of the museum grounds receiving treats. Refreshments followed. The official city of South Haven trick-n-treat time is Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Photos by Tom Renner.

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Bark Park at Riverwoods plans to raise funds

By James Windell

With the completion of the purchase of Riverwoods by the South Haven Area Recreational Authority (SHARA), five of the 49 acres in the development will be devoted to a dog park.

The new dog park will be located adjacent to the Kal-Haven Trail and Black River in South Haven Township just off of Blue Star Highway. South Haven has had a members-only dog park on 8th Avenue for a few years, but Robert Linstrom and others have long wanted a dog park free and open to everyone.

"The goal of a city-owned dog park available to everyone came up in our meetings and I offered to work on it," says Robert Linstrom, Vice-President of the current dog park. "The purchase of Riverwoods by SHARA allows for the development of a 49-acre recreational park, but on that property we've identified a five-acre parcel for our dog park that will be called the South Haven Bark Park at Riverwoods."

Linstrom says that he is one of a group of nine people who are launching a capital campaign this fall with the goal of raising $150,000.

According to another member of the group, Sheral Bradley, "We plan to raise $150,000 for Phase One. Phase One includes site preparation, fencing, air-lock gates, pathways, and dog waste disposal."

Although Linstrom acknowledges that Phase One is a big project for the group, he says that they are confident they can raise the necessary funds and begin development by next spring with the goal of opening in 2026.

"With the help of local corporations, businesses and private individuals," Linstrom says, "we can make this happen. We are determined to reach our long-term goal of a municipal dog park open to all. It will be a great resource."

Bradley says they have a brochure about the South Haven Bark Park at Riverwoods and they expect to begin contacting businesses and do a mass mailing to all dog owners in the South Haven area soon to begin their capital campaign.

To learn more about the South Haven Bark Park at Riverwoods or to donate, contact Robert Linstrom at (269) 906-0532. Donations can be mailed to South Haven Dog Park at Riverwoods, 823 Superior Street, South Haven, MI 49090.

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A MAYOR FOR THE PEOPLE: WHY TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS MUST BE OUR PRIORITY

Dear Friends,

As this campaign draws to a close, I'm filled with gratitude for your honest feedback, your encouragement, and the countless kindnesses shared along the way. You've opened your doors, your hearts, and your hopes, and I've listened closely. Your voices have shaped this journey.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

We have made South Haven our home because of its unique charm and sense of community. Like many of you, I have watched with concern as our city has faced a pivotal challenge: ensuring that our government serves the interests of all residents, not just a few powerful groups.

I am running for mayor because this election is about what we can build together with integrity, compassion, and resolve. There is an overwhelming desire to ensure the residents have a voice that is not only heard, but respected.

As mayor, my vision is for a government that is a partner with its citizens. The proof is in the pudding, or should I say pastries.

The recent uproar around our Beloved Bunde's Bakery was very disruptive. I had the courage to undertake steps to bring the matter back to City Council to confirm: **We love Bunde's Bakery and want them to stay!**

My plan for a transparent and accountable government includes:

- **Fiscal Accountability:** Let's start with Department Line-Item Budgets available for public review
- **Fair Enforcement of Ordinances & Polices/ Procedures:**
  - I was the only "no" vote on City Council regarding the recent short-term rental (STR) flat fees. As mayor, I will strive for a transparent process to ensure fairness to all STR owners, especially the smaller ones!
  - Engage the whole community on important decisions, like hiring of the police chief. Even if the decision is the City Manager's, the process should engage anyone wanting to participate**. This is how you build a unified community.**
- **Citizen-First Development:**
  - **Respect our neighborhoods** to preserve the unique character and charm of our community: I listened and acted to support Bunde's Bakery
  - **Planned future development:**
    - Engage our whole community: As mayor, I will ensure everyone has a seat at the table
    - Support our Current Businesses: I ensured changes in the Master Plan update supported growth of WR Grace. Our own economic development consultant supported the change I pursued.
  - **Address Residents' Concerns:** As mayor, I will work closely with the City Manager to foster civil and efficient discussions to address residents' concerns. I will lead respectful discussions of opposing thoughts where every Councilmember has a fair opportunity to represent constituents without ridicule.
  - **Civility and Acceptance:** We can grow our year-round resident population to positively grow our schools and our healthcare services through affordable housing by engaging everyone as I have always done.

I bring leadership that is honest, respectful, and strong! The special interests who oppose me are doing so because they benefit from the status quo. They fear a leader who will stand up for what is right, stand up for rights of residents. I will ensure residents' voices are heard and concerns addressed. You can hold me accountable.

It is time for a mayor who will put the people first! My campaign is built on the simple but powerful principle that everyone's voice counts. I ask for your support and your vote on November 4th. I urge you to vote based on facts. If we have not had the opportunity to meet, please contact me: Phone/Txt at 914-713-8649. Email at MaryH4SH@outlook.com. Learn more by visiting my website at https://www.maryhosleyformayorofsouthhaven.com.

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City rejects suggestion to change conflict of interest policy

By James Windell

If you live next door to a property that is being developed in such a way that it could have a negative impact on the value of your property, could you make decisions regarding that development in an objective and unbiased manner?

That question was raised in the South Haven Planning Commission meeting on August 7, 2025. During that meeting, attorney Emily Palacios, an attorney with the Grand Rapids law firm of Miller Johnson, questioned Planning Commission member Mary Hosley's potential conflict of interest in the matter of 120 Baseline, South Haven.

The owners of the property at 120 Baseline, the former Countryside Nursing Home property, have applied for rezoning to a manufactured home community. In the 2018 Master Plan, specific and deliberate guidance was given regarding the Countryside property in the event it became available for redevelopment. That Master Plan stated that the property would be ideal for Single Family land use in the event that the site becomes available for redevelopment.

Because Hosley, the South Haven's City Council representative on the Planning Commission, owns property that is adjacent to 120 Baseline, there was concern that she might not be unbiased in making decisions about that property.

In response, rather than addressing the concerns raised, the Planning Commission amended its bylaws to prevent Hosley from voting on matters related to 120 Baseline, citing a conflict of interest because her property borders the site.

Mary Hosley voted against that bylaw change but brought the matter to the City Council. She along with Councilwoman Letitia Wilkins asked that the South Haven City Council consider coming up with a statement about conflict of interest that would apply to the City Council, the Planning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. This was on City Council's agenda on Oct. 20, 2025.

City Manager Kate Hosier, in beginning consideration of this item, said that Wilkins and Hosley asked that this be on the agenda and turned it over to them to explain why they asked that the issue be placed on the agenda. Mary Hosley began by talking about the recent history of the conflict of interest concern. "This came up at the Planning Commission meeting. There was a change to the bylaws with regard to conflict of interest. This all started from the zoning rewrite where a conflict of interest was removed as a definition.

"The Michigan Planning Enabling Act actually allows the legislative body by ordinance to define conflict of interest. What I wanted to suggest is to set a time to discuss what the Council would like. But it would seem more consistent if we reinserted the definition of conflict of interest so that the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the City Council are all on the same level.

"This all came to light at the discussion of the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission because when the different versions were being discussed, I raised the fact that another Planning Commission came up for a vote on Overton, a Planning Commission member would have to recuse depending on which version was selected.

"The Planning Commission was of the opinion that it was cleaner to remove that and have it more objective rather than subjective. But the Michigan Planning Enabling Act allows the legislative body to define conflict of interest in the zoning area."

When Hosley ended her statement of explanation, Hosier said she was confused. "This was a bylaw by the Planning Commission that affects only the Planning Commission," Hosier said. "This has no impact on this body [the City Council]. The City Council's conflict of interest is really governed by our charter which is very clear that unless you have a pecuniary interest, you're not conflicted out."

Hosley responded to that by asking: "Do we want the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the City Council to have different definitions of Conflict of Interest?"

City Attorney Dave Eberle got involved in the discussion saying that every board or commission has the authority to adopt their own bylaws. This, Eberle said, is in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, which does not define what counts as a conflict of interest. Instead, it leaves that determination to local governments, which are expected to spell out the details in their planning commission bylaws.

Eberle said to the City Council that he urged "extreme caution" in considering a change to the City Council's conflict of interest policy.

Councilman Joe Reeser said: "In my humble opinion, I don't see a reason to change it." And council member George Sleeper said that he appreciates why the Planning Commission further defined conflict of interest in their bylaws. However, he commented: "The pattern I see is that when the Planning Commission does what councilwoman Hosley doesn't agree with she comes to this body looking for redress. I don't think that is appropriate because we just basically get just one side of the story – member Hosley's side. We don't see what the Planning Commission went trough to come up with their solution which was obviously approved by a majority of the Planning Commission."

Hosley said in responding that, "I was simply being proactive and the way this has gone it is not appreciated and is actually disrespectful."

It got even more tense as it was implied that Hosley bullied other members of the staff and City Council. However, Mayor Brown cut it short by saying that she did not sense a majority of the council wanted to discuss conflict of interest any further and she moved on to other items on the agenda.

So, for now, changing the conflict of interest policy for the City Council is not something a majority of the council wants to address.

New one-million gallon water tank in operation

The one-million-gallon water tank under construction in South Haven was gingerly raised to the top of the 160-foot tall concrete pedestal on Saturday. The amazing engineering fete took approximately four hours as the tank rose inch-by-inch to the top.

The tank with the wrap-around mural promoting South Haven's historic lighthouse and the Lake Michigan shoreline, sea gulls and all, can be seen for miles around.

Much work remains before the tank is put into service for its 5,000 customers in the City of South Haven, Casco Township, Covert Township and South Haven Township.

A new lift station is under construction and watermains are being added to the infrastructure.

An existing 100-year-old water standpipe will be demolished when the new tower is operational.

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VIEWPOINT

Lawmakers shouldn't receive pay during shutdown

One of the consequences of a government shutdown should be that those legislators responsible for the shutdown should not receive their regular pay. In my mind they are just as much part of the government as the hundreds of thousand government workers not receiving pay as well as millions of constituents who will soon face the reality that they must conduct everyday life without SNAP benefits.

National parks close, veterans' services slow, and ordinary citizens are forced to shoulder the burden of political stalemate. Yet one group always seems immune to the pain they help create—members of Congress.

That reality has never sat well with the American people, and for good reason. If lawmakers' inaction or stubbornness leads to a shutdown, they shouldn't be rewarded with continued pay. The moral, practical, and symbolic reasons to deny Congress its pay during shutdowns are overwhelming.

First, there's the basic principle of fairness. Federal employees—from park rangers to air traffic controllers—don't have the luxury of collecting salaries during shutdowns, even though they have no power to end the impasse. It's galling to see members of Congress, many of whom are millionaires, continue receiving their $174,000 annual salaries while workers earning a fraction of that are told to stay home. If Congress is responsible for the gridlock, its members should feel the same pressure to resolve it as the people they're holding hostage to their political games.

I saw a TV clip of a congressman saying he couldn't afford to delay or skip his pay. He felt bad for federal workers who were forced to go without pay, but he was not about to join them. After all, he said I have a mortgage and other expenses to pay. I simply thought, how clueless could this representative be? Isn't that exactly what thousands of federal workers are facing?

Second, denying pay during shutdowns would create much-needed accountability. Too often, lawmakers treat shutdowns as political theater—an opportunity to grandstand, blame the other side, and rally their base. But if every day of gridlock meant lost income for them personally, incentives would shift. Suddenly, compromise wouldn't seem like weakness; it would be fiscal survival. For all the speeches about fiscal responsibility, perhaps nothing would drive home the need for responsible governance more effectively than lawmakers feeling the consequences in their own wallets. I bet my measly salary that if lawmakers were docked pay, there would be no shutdown.

Third, continuing to pay Congress during shutdowns erodes public trust in government. Every shutdown is a reminder of Washington's dysfunction, but the optics of elected officials collecting paychecks while essential workers go unpaid make it worse. Americans are already skeptical about whether their leaders understand the struggles of ordinary people. Watching politicians remain comfortable while others suffer deepens cynicism and disengagement. Restoring trust requires more than talk—it requires sacrifice and solidarity.

Some defenders of congressional pay during shutdowns (I can't imagine who would defend such a blatant disregard of public trust) argue that the Constitution mandates it. They point to the 27th Amendment, which prevents changes to congressional compensation from taking effect until after the next election. While that's true, the law doesn't prevent Congress from voluntarily withholding or deferring its pay during a shutdown. Lawmakers could easily pass legislation that withholds pay until the government reopens—without technically changing their salary. What's lacking isn't legal authority, but political will.

If members of Congress truly believe in public service, they should lead by example. During shutdowns, they should forgo their pay voluntarily, and they should codify that standard into law for future sessions. Public service means sharing the hardships of the people you represent, not standing apart from them.

A government shutdown is a symptom of a deeper disease—polarization, dysfunction, and a lack of accountability. Ending congressional pay during shutdowns won't fix those problems overnight, but it's a start. It's a way to realign incentives, restore fairness, and remind lawmakers that their first duty is to the nation, not to their own comfort.

If Congress can't keep the lights on, it shouldn't keep collecting a paycheck. It's that simple.

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

New K-9 to join Paw Paw Public Schools Therapy Dog Program

"Van Buren County Sheriff's Deputy Trever Tate adopted a stray pup out of our animal shelter. Kobe is a Shepard pup that was around 12 weeks old and 14 pounds when he was adopted eight weeks ago by the Tate family. He is now around 5 months old and 50 pounds. Kobe successfully completed his Puppy Training Class with Katy's K9 Training, earning his AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Title. Once his advanced training is complete and he is fully certified, he will proudly join the Paw Paw Public Schools Therapy Dog Program, where he will assist Deputy Tate as the School Resource Deputy," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"Our Corrections Division completed updated/refresher training this past week on CPR, AEDs, and Tasers," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a missing person incident in Waverly Township. "The missing individual was located after an extensive search of the area as was the dog that was with her. Many resources were used in the search including a drone, canine, law enforcement personnel, atv/utv, and citizens in the area. A huge shout out to the citizens who assisted our office in this call to help get a positive outcome in locating the victim and dog. A neighbor to the adjoining property located the victim and dog on one of his trails in the woods. He had his UTV and picked them both up and brought them to the needed location," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Narcotics Unit executed a search warrant in the Village of Paw Paw. Detectives seized a large amount of cocaine, a large amount of methamphetamine, money, and a handgun which the suspect could not be in possession of. Children were at the residence, so CPS is now involved. The suspect was lodged on several felony charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Domestic Preparedness Emergency Management Division received an award from the Michigan Emergency Management Association for exceptional performance and dedication due to their work over the past summer getting things in place, drills completed, etc. for Holtec's reopening. It was great to see their tireless work and commitment to the county recognized at the state level as well. Once again, this is just another example of the high-level staff we have working at our office," said Sheriff Abbott.

"We hired Timothy Hulinek to our Corrections Division. Tim brings years of experience from Kalamazoo County. We are very excited to welcome him to our office/family," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a missing person call in the City of Hartford. Deputies were able to locate the individual at a hospital. Relatives were notified of his location.

"As winter is approaching, just a reminder that we do property checks as a Free Service if you are out of town for an extended period or for the winter. You can go to our website and sign up for them to be done," said Sheriff Abbott.

Lawrence Public Schools ushers in new era of growth

LAWRENCE - As he begins his second year at the helm of Lawrence Public School, Superintendent Ryan Williamson said the school district is ushering in a new era of growth, opportunity, and personalized support for students and families.

"With leadership changes, innovative student support systems, and expanded learning opportunities, the future looks bright and the 2025-26 school year promises to be an exciting year," said Williamson.

Recently, LPS was recognized by State Deputy Superintendent Delsa Chapman regarding the impact Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is having on attendance. "LPS believes that building personal relationships based on trust and meeting students where they are to ensure students have the support they need is vital to improving attendance," said Williamson.

According to Williamson, LPS is committed to meeting students where they are and supporting students' individual needs K-12. "We are expanding our MTSS framework to ensure each student is routinely connected with a designated staff member and fostering positive relationships, our Elementary has an established system and we are working collaboratively to increase supports and bring the framework to the Jr./Sr. HS" said Williamson.

MTSS provides three tiers of support and focuses on Social Emotional Learning, Test Data, Behavior, and Attendance. Tier 1 focuses on schoolwide recognition through the district's expectation matrix and the BeNice initiative, Tier 2 targets small groups with shared needs, and Tier 3 offers individualized one-on-one interventions. "The district is strengthening its commitment to social-emotional learning, restorative practices, and individualized student support. The district's K-12 Principal, Brock Thumm, is working closely with our Behavior Interventionist, Dean of Students, Student Support Coordinator, School Counselor, Mental Health Clinician, and Social Worker. Together, our team will ensure a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment for all learners," said Williamson.

WIN (What I Need) time is the student learning branch of MTSS, which has been fully implemented in the Elementary. Staff collect formative student data based on the proficiency of the standard(s) daily to impact future lessons. The Classroom Teacher(s), Instructional Coach, Reading Specialist, and Title Paraprofessionals meet every three weeks to adjust their tier 2 and 3 instructions based on the formative data. "This allows staff to meet and personalize students' needs, whether that is above or below grade level," said Williamson.

Williamson said LPS is also expanding its flexible alternative learning programs, ideal for students who need non-traditional schedules or customized academic pathways. "Whether balancing a job, family obligations, or unique learning styles, students will find options that fit their needs. Also, LPS is investing in before and after school care programs designed to support working parents and provide extended enrichment opportunities for students."

Williamson said LPS is the new home of the Migrant/Multilingual Program for Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) and will host Summer Migrant School for Van Buren County.

In closing, Williamson said the Mackinac Center for Public Policy released their CAP (Context and Performance) report last spring. "Lawrence Elementary was acknowledged as No. 1 in Van Buren County and 54 of approximately 2,200 in the state. We believe the programming we offer without dedicated and caring staff is making a difference," said Williamson.

OBITUARY

Virginia Evelyn Wallace-Cooper

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Virginia Evelyn Wallace-Cooper of Largo, FL, formerly of Paw Paw.

Beloved mother, daughter, sister, friend joined Jesus, her brother and sister in heaven 9/8/25 in St Petersburg, Fl. Born 11/6/93 in South Haven, MI, to Cheri (Wheetley) Wallace and Mark Wallace, Sr. She was united in marriage to Chelsea Cooper 11/3/19.

Virginia was raised in SW Michigan, moving to Florida in high school. She attended Pinellas Park and Seminole high schools. She was a current paralegal student at SPC with aspirations of attending law school. She dreamed of starting a mission for those less fortunate. Virginia was a devoted Christian, surrendering her life to Christ. She was recently baptized. Never missed an opportunity to minister to loved ones and strangers alike. She was a faithful and loving servant spreading his word everywhere she went. In her free time, you could find her feeding and clothing less fortunate.

Next to her Lord, Virginia's world were her three beautiful children. She was a devoted and loving mother that would stop at nothing to provide for her children, Kingston, Legend and Solara.

Her light shined brightest when with her children. She loved making lasting memories with family and friends. She always knew how to liven up any room with her radiant beauty and larger than life personality. She will be greatly missed by anyone that was blessed to have known or met her. Those left to forever carry on her legacy.

Her beautiful children, two sons Kingston and Legend, and their mother, Chelsea Cooper. Her daughter, Solara, and her father, Jake White Parents, Cheri Wallace and Mark Wallace, Sr. of FL. Siblings, Stephanie Wheetley of MI, Cassandra Nelson of FL, TJ Bruens (Brandi) of OK, Mark Wallace (Morgan) of FL, Clark Wallace of MI, and Trista Kelly (Chris) of MI. Grandmothers, Lori Wheetley of MI and Clara Wallace of FL. Her beloved nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins, and numerous friends.

Preceded in death by her brother, Richard Bruens, and sister, Jessica Wallace; Grandfathers, Fred Wheetley and Robert Wallace. Cremation has taken place

Friends and family wishing to pay respects may do so at her funeral, Saturday Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. at the Lawrence United Methodist Church, corner of James and Exchange streets.

Two Belgian journalists write about Antwerp Township

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VAN ANTWERPEN NAAR
ANTWERP, USA

Antwerp Township Michigan
CHICAGO
DETROIT
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP
New York

Antwerp
- Staat: Michigan
- Inwoners: 13.425 (in 2020)
- In 2024 gekozen voor: Trump

Onze reporters reisden door de Verenigde Staten van Donald Trump. Niet naar de grote steden of de spectaculairste trekpleisters? Wel naar zeven plaatsen waar zelden of nooit toeristen komen, maar die in Antwerpse oren vele bellen zullen doen rinkelen. **Vandaag de laatste aflevering: Antwerp, Michigan, een perfect vierkante gemeente van fruit- en wijnboeren.**

PATRICK VINCENT

"Onze ligging is ons succes: pal tussen Chicago en Detroit"

Wij kennen Emblemse wijn, Poederleese wijn, Meerhoutse wijn en uiteraard Wijnegemse wijn. Maar voor Antwerpse wijn moet je naar Michigan, in het noorden van de Verenigde Staten. Er zijn een paar wijnboeren in de gemeente Antwerp, tussen Kalamazoo en Paw Paw, maar de mooiste wijngaard is die van David Butkovich. Cody Kresta heet die, genoemd naar zijn golden retriever, die op straat overreden werd, én naar het Kroatische woord voor heuvelkam. De plek waar we nu staan.

In 1980 kocht de ondertussen 75-jarige David deze boerderij en hij renoveerde ze volledig. Het is zo'n idyllisch landgoed, prachtig gelegen tussen de bossen, waar je in België makkelijk 2 à 3 miljoen euro voor neerlelt. Hij teelde al langer druiven, maar vijftien jaar geleden begon hij er ook zelf wijn van te maken. "Toen ik begon, was Cody Kresta het 61ste wijndomein van de staat Michigan *(die acht keer groter is dan België; red.)*. Vandaag zijn er al meer dan 250", zegt David, die Kroatische roots heeft en trots is op zijn levenswerk. Onlangs verkoos een gespecialiseerd tijdschrift zijn *winery* tot een van de veertig mooiste verborgen parels van het land.

28 verschillende soorten wijn maakt hij hier. Veel zoete wijnen, afgestemd op de smaak van de Amerikanen. Hij produceert driduizend kratten van twaalf flessen per jaar. "En zonder chemicaliën of herbiciden", zegt hij trots, terwijl hij ons door de wijngaarden en door zijn fraai gerenoveerde shop en bar leidt. David is een zachtaardige man, die ondanks zijn leeftijd bijzonder fit oogt en nog lang niet aan stoppen denkt. "Elke avond drink ik een glas schuimwijn die ik zelf gemaakt heb. Wat willen mens nog meer?"

"Toen ik vijftien jaar geleden begon, was Cody Kresta het 61ste wijndomein van de staat Michigan. Vandaag zijn er al meer dan 250"
David Butkovich
Wijnboer in Antwerp

Zes op zes mijl

Antwerp is wat ze hier in Michigan een *township* noemen. En om dat uit te leggen moeten we heel even technisch worden. De staat Michigan is verdeeld in counties, die je enigszins kunt vergelijken met een arrondissement bij ons. *Counties* zijn op hun beurt verdeeld in *townships*. Dat zijn allemaal vierkante oppervlaktes van telkens zes op zes mijl (92,16 vierkante kilometer). *No nonsense*, recht op recht. Of er nu geen, weinig of veel mensen wonen, of de grenzen dwars door dorpjes of steden snijden, dat speelt allemaal geen rol. Die *townships* zijn al zo uitgetekend aan het eind van de achttiende eeuw, toen dit deel van het land nog het Northwestern Territory heette, uitsluitend bevolkt door inheemse indianenstammen.

Toen deze grote landmassa tussen het Michiganmeer en het Huronmeer in 1837 officieel de staat Michigan werd, moesten al die *townships*, tot dan toe aangeduid met nummers, ook namen krijgen. Amper een jaar eerder was Daniel Van Antwerp zich met zijn gezin in zo'n vierkant komen vestigen. Daniel bracht zijn vrouw, zijn vier kinderen en zijn ouders mee uit de staat New York. Ze waren niet de eerste niet-indianse bewoners, maar

"Sommige historici vragen zich af of Harmon Van Antwerp niet gewoonweg de 'van' uit zijn eigen naam liet vallen en de township naar zijn eigen familie vernoemde."
Officiële geschiedschrijving

omdat zijn pa Harmon wel de oudste bewoner van de township was, kreeg hij de eer om de naam ervan kiezen. Harmon – een Amerikaanse verbastering van Herman – was nog geboren 'op het oude continent' en samen met twee broers aan het eind van de achttiende eeuw naar de VS gemigreerd. In de officiële geschiedschrijving staat het zo: "Hij noemde het naar een stad in Europa. Sommige historici vragen zich af of hij niet gewoonweg de 'van' uit zijn eigen naam liet vallen en de *township* naar zijn eigen familie vernoemde." Duh!

Powatomi

De Van Antwerps waren geen sukkelaars en de grond was spotgoedkoop, dus kochten ze hier ongeveer 730 hectaren land, ongeveer het dubbele van de oppervlakte van het toenmalige Antwerpen, dat nog binnen de Spaanse omwalling lag. Maar hun rijkdom kon niet beletten dat ze een karig leven leidden. Daniels schoondochter Harriet beschreef die pioniersjaren later in haar memoires. Er waren geen scholen, kerken, kranten, boeken of amusement. Ze leefden van de natuur en op de barre winteravonden waren de huilconcerten van de wolven in de bossen rondom hun enige vertier. Sociaal contact was er wel. Af en toe kwamen indianen van de Powatomi-stam buurten.

Vandaag woont nog altijd een veertigtal *Native Americans* in Antwerp. Samen met een kleine zesduizend andere Powatomi in de ruimere regio vormen ze een sinds 1994 door de federale overheid erkende stam met bijzondere privileges. Ze hebben bijvoorbeeld hun eigen rechtbanken en politiekorpsen en dankzij hun recht om casino's uit te baten staan ze ook economisch sterk. Die casino's zijn ware cashcows, die hen toelaten om ook in andere sectoren te investeren: 10 procent van hun inkomsten storten ze rechtstreeks door naar de verschillende *counties* waarin ze opereren en zo dragen ze bij aan de stijgende welvaart van de streek.

Tornado

Dat verhaal horen we in het Van Buren County Historical Museum, in een prachtig negentiende-eeuws huis op het platteland dat aan de hand van voorwerpen en geschriften de geschiedenis van *de county* tot leven brengt. Antwerp is een van de achttien *townships* van Van Buren County en hoofdarchivaris Sandy Merchant heeft voor ons twee stoffige dozen klaargezet met oude documenten en geschriften over Antwerp. "Je hebt geluk dat er nog iets overblijft", zegt Sandy. "Drie jaar geleden heeft een tornado het dak van dit huis geblazen. Alles was doorweekt. We hebben zo veel mogelijk archieven proberen te vriesdrogen om ze te redden."

De collectie van het museum bestaat grotendeels uit geschonken voorwerpen; van handgemaakte quilts tot kleren en oud gereedschap. Ted Moody leidt ons door de tientallen kamers van het museum, dat ooit het armenhuis van de *county* was. We wandelen door antieke dokters- en tandartspraktijken, een kapsalon, een wassalon, een telefooncentrale en een winkel. We zien een schitterende glazen *nuffpomp* uit de jaren stilleke, en gaan zitten aan de toog van een authentieke *diner*. "De ontharer stopte ermee en wilde de volledige inboedel naar het containerpark brengen", zegt Todd. "Wij zeiden: 'Breng hem dan maar naar hier. Zolang je de aangekochte *tuttefrut* maar aan de onderkant van de toog laat hangen.'"

Elke nieuwe kamer is nog charmanter dan de vorige. De ijskelder, volgestouwd met verroest gereedschap, heeft zijn oorspronkelijke functie verloren. "Vroeger sneden de *Antwerpers* grote blokken ijs uit de dichtgevroren meren", vertelt Ted. "Als je daar zagemeel rond deed, bleef dat blok bevroren tot aan de nationale feestdag op 4 juli." IJs was hoognodig in deze streek, een van de grote fruitculturen van de Verenigde Staten. Nog altijd zieje stalletjes langs de weg met aardbeien, blauwe bessen, appels en druiven.

Strategische ligging

Ook al hebben de landbouwers zich ondertussen vooral op maïs en sojabonen gestort, voor die-renvoeding en om ethanol van te maken. "Onze ligging is ons succes", zegt Todd. "In elke windrichting hebben we grote afzetgebieden. Twee uur rijden naar het oosten en je bent in Detroit, twee uur naar het westen en je staat in Chicago." Interstate 94, de drukke snelweg tussen beide grootsteden, loopt dwars door Antwerp en afrit 66 leidt je recht naar het centrum van Mattawan.

En nu moet je er even het hoofd bijhouden. Weet je nog dat vierkant van zes op zes mijl, Antwerp Township? Binnen dat vierkant groeiden de voorbije 185 jaar twee dorpjes: Mattawan en Lawton. En om het helemaal ingewikkeld te maken is het dorp Paw Paw gedeeltelijk buiten de grenzen van zijn eigen township gegroeid. De oostelijke kant ervan

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ZOMER REEKS

Antwerp Township
Antwerp Township Office Sunshine Library
Activity Center

Antwerp is een township, en heeft dus een perfect vierkante oppervlakte van zes op zes mijl. © ROBIN FASSEUR

"Drie jaar geleden was er een tornado. We hebben zo veel mogelijk archieven proberen te vriesdrogen om ze te redden"
Sandy Merchant
Hoofdarchivaris Antwerp

Het casino van de *Native American* Powatomi-stam levert Van Buren County extra welvaart op. © RR

Bette Glindmeyer, Sandy Merchant en Ted Moody zijn vrijwilligers van het Van Buren County Historical Museum.

Lees verder op blz. 14

David Butkovich uit Antwerp, Michigan, tussen zijn rieslingdruiven van wijndomein Cody Kresta.

Een fiesje Antwerpse wijn, iemand?

Editor's Note – The following is an email recently received by Paw Paw Courier-Leader newspaper staff Writer Paul Garrod from Belgium. A reporter, Patrick Vincent, and photographer Robin Fasseur, spent time in the United States doing a series of newspaper articles and photos on towns with the name "Antwerp." The two spent time at the Antwerp Township Hall, the Village of Lawton and the Van Buren County Museum, among other area sites.

"Dear friends,

It's been almost three months since photographer Robin and I were in your town for a series in the Belgian newspaper Gazet van Antwerpen. I promised you then that I would send a copy of the published article. Finally, I had the time to do this."

He continued, "There is also a link to the online article, the pictures and videos. You need a subscription to read it. But if you register your name, you should be able to read this one full article online and get the opportunity to translate it into English using artificial intelligence translate systems. I hope it works. https://www.gva.be/buitenland/onze-reporter-trok-van-antwerpen-naar-de-township-antwerp-in-michigan-onze-ligging-is-ons-succes-pal-tussen-chicago-en-detroit/83665664.html

"I want to thank you again for welcoming us in your community and talking to us and explaining your town to us. Americans know what hospitality is.

"We felt very welcome in the United States and learned a lot about life in the small towns and communities.

"If you ever come to Antwerpen in Belgium, don't hesitate to contact us."

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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First public engagement session held for Overton Project

By James Windell

The first of three scheduled Community Engagement Sessions related to the proposed development of the Overton Property was held on Monday, October 20, 2025, at Resurrection Life /Emmanuel Community Church in South Haven.

Four staff members from Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids led two separate two-hour discussions that centered around what South Haven residents would like to see in the proposed development.

The Overton Property, which is located at the corner of Elkenburg Street and Indiana Avenue, South Haven, has been the center of controversy for several years. The City of South Haven has considered the 5.5-acre site as a unique opportunity for affordable housing, and Dwelling Place, a nonprofit community development organization, has been committed to the development.

In leading off the meeting of interested citizens, Latrisha Sosebee, Director of Community Building & Engagement for Dwelling Place, said that her company was interested in developing communities as much as developing housing – which is why they were holding the meeting. In stimulating discussion, Sosebee asked such questions as "What do you like and value in your neighborhood?" and "What types and styles of housing are important?"

Dwelling Place has proposed a development which includes an apartment building with 53 apartments, 10 duplexes, and two single-family homes. However, in the past few years, the contamination and engineering hurdles have raised public concerns about safety, feasibility, and transparency.

In discussing what participants in the first meeting liked about the neighborhoods on the south side of the city, residents mentioned access to Lake Michigan, schools, recreation, and shopping. As people talked about the many things they enjoyed about South Haven, Sosebee noted that they obviously took great pride in the city. However, various needs in the city were also addressed and those include more mental health resources, especially for youth, and a community center.

In reviewing the proposed site plans, Isaac Norris, an architect for Isaac V. Norris & Associates, and Matt Szumiski, Land Acquisition & Development Specialist for Dwelling Place, discussed the placement on the site of the various proposed buildings, the parking lots and a retention area. Although Szumiski initially referred to a water run-off area as a "retention pond," he and other Dwelling Place representatives backtracked when participants began to question the safety of a retention pond. "It's not a pond, but a retention area," Szumiski said. He went on to say that only under extreme weather conditions would the field retain water for any length of time. Dwelling Place representatives assured the audience they were not going to create any health hazards.

Assistant City Manager Michael Landis said that both meeting were well attended and featured lively discussion.

The second public engagement sessions will take place on Monday, November 3, 2025, and, again, be two sessions, at 12:00 pm and 5:30 pm at Resurrection Life / Emmanuel Community Church, 322 Elkenburg, South Haven.

Sosebee said that the second session will focus on discussing the building and home designs.

Local Officials discuss jobs

The Van Buren County Republican Women held a County Panel at their meeting Monday night, Oct. 27, at the Lawrence Township Hall. The panel, consisting of Van Buren County Undersheriff Casey Davis, Van Buren County Administrator John Faul, Van Buren County Prosecutor Susan Zuiderveen, and Van Buren County Commissioner Paul Schincariol, each talked about their jobs. A question-and-answer period followed the panel's talk.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Senior Readers to perform Christmas Gathering

The Christmas Gathering is being performed November 22 @7pm and November 23 @3 pm by The Storytellers , Senior Readers Theater who are sponsored by Van Buren County Senior Services . Disappointed with being alone Christmas Day, Grandma Lou solves the dilemma by inviting 6 unusual guests to her home for Christmas dinner. Mostly strangers to one another, with no family or place to go, they accept this unexpected invitation and find themselves sharing much more than mashed potatoes and ham around the Holiday table. Later with Christmas magic everywhere, the strangers have become family as their lives are changed , their hopes are renewed and the Christmas message of love has transformed everyone.

This production is at the Senior Services of VanBuren County , auditorium 08337 M140, Ste.1 , South Haven. Tickets are $10.00 and available at the desk of SSVBC during business hours and at the door at production.

All proceeds from this production go directly to Van Buren County Senior Services.

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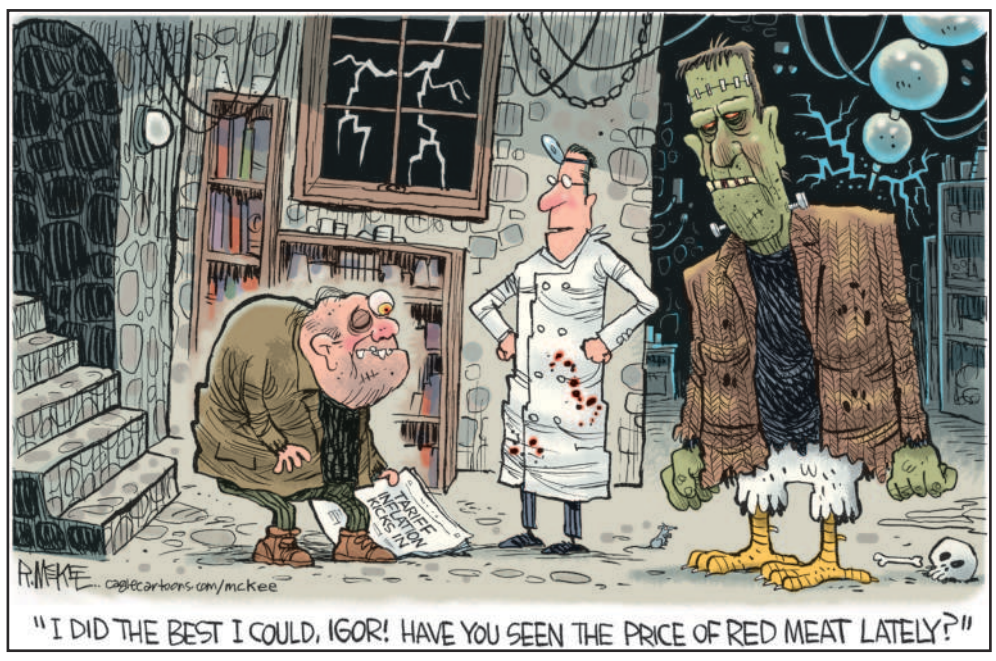

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Garden Club brings beauty to Elkenburg Park

By James Windell

After receiving Parks Commission and City Council approval this past summer to begin an Elkenburg Park beautification project, the South Haven Garden Club went to work in earnest on October 2, 2025.

"The project commenced on October 2nd with our initial planting," says Garden Club member and Chair of the Park Project, Lisa Stegall. "But going forward we will continue planting and maintaining this project next spring."

The plan for beautifying the park included planting a colorful flower garden around the park's sign, upgrading the landscaping on the east side of the restroom building, and constructing a new landscape stone walkway and two new beds on each side with several perennial flowers that would enhance the color and beauty of the area.

Stegall says that there was a 12-person committee working on the project and five members volunteered for the first planting. Although much of the initial work is done, Stegall says that it is an ongoing project that will involve annual plantings and maintenance every summer and fall. "In the spring," Stegall says, "we will add new perennials and we will focus on native plants that are both drought and deer resistant."

Stegall also said that Garden Club members will volunteer to water and maintain and weed the garden beds. "We are committed to going there one time a week or more if needed," she said.

Purple Pride receives top rating

The South Haven High School Purple Pride marching band continued its tradition of excellence by receiving a Division I rating with all As at the recent MSBOA District Marching Band Festival. The band is directed by Jeff and Sarah Bopp.

Area Church Services

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Pastor Dan Phillips
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Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
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••••

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Messages available on YouTube

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Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
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Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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32464 Red Arrow
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on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search: "Buddy Turner"

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Worship: 11am Sundays in person or online at - www.pawpawpres.com or www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
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Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
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www.pawpaw.church
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e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
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Fr. Dave Pinto
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses Consult Bulletin

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School: 657-5921
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THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
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WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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Pastor Ross Tarantino
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TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
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info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

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Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

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Rev. John Tran
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Sunday Mass times to 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM Saturday Vigil 4:00PM

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Paw Paw football to play Three Rivers in playoffs

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's football team ended the regular season with a 42-6 victory over Vicksburg on Friday and will be playing Three Rivers in the district semifinals this Friday night.

Paw Paw is 6-3 and has won six straight including a 43–0 win over first-round opponent Three Rivers.

"We play Three Rivers and everyone in our district are Wolverine teams and know each other well. It is always tough to play a team twice in one year," Wolves coach Dennis Stray said. "The team has played very well as of late and must keep getting better every week.

"The offensive and defensive line have done a great job opening up holes and keeping the pounds clean so they can make tackles. We need to continue working on all aspects of the game to keep getting better."

Ben Miller leads the state in rushing with 1,799 yards on 186 carries with 28 TDS and two 2 point conversion.

"These two guys anchor the offensive and defensive lines and lead our team: Austin Ackerman has
59 tackles, four sacks, and 11 TFLs, two force fumbles. Tyler Kruizinga has 55 tackles with 3 TFLs. Ben Newell is a linebacker with 83 tackles, two sacks, and 9 TFLs. Eli Sonnenburg is a special teams leader in tackles and a DB with 51 Tackles with 1 TFL, one Sack, three interceptions, and 3 force fumbles.

It was Paw Paw over Vicksburg on Friday 42-6. Tonight Vicksburg traveled to Paw Paw for the final game of the regular season. Paw Paw won 42-6. Ben Miller only played the first half and tallied 206 yards on 17 carries for 3 TDs. Elias Sonneberg stepped in and rushed for 126 yards on 18 carries for 3 TDs. Vicksburg scored 2 Field Goals in the first quarter, but did not put together an offensive series after the 1st. It was Another outstanding outing by the defense which shut down Vicksburg. Paw Paw improves to 6-3 on the season, 6-1 in the Wolverine.

Highlights:

Ben Miller - 206 yards on 17 carries for 3 TDs: 1 Solo tackle, 2 assist.

Elias Sonneberg - 126 yards on 18 carries 3 TDs: 5 solos, 2 assist.

Carter Buhl - 54 yards on 9 carries: 2 solo, 2 assist.

Ben Newell - 5 solos, 6 assist.

Austin Auckerman - 2 solo, 4 assists, 1.5 TFL, 1 FF.

Tyler Kruizenga - 3 solo 2 assist, 1 sack, 0.5 FF.

South Haven football beats Galesburg-Augusta

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven ended the regular season on Friday with a home 21-6 football win over Galesburg-Augusta.

It was 14-0 at halftime and 14-6 after the third quarter.

South Haven had 139 yards in rushing led by Quin Hayes with 49 yards, Dom Guzman with 37 yards and Ryker Rowland with 30 yards. Quarterback Ryan Jenks passed for 139 yards. Michael Fricke caught three passes for 40 yards. Grayson Knox caught two passes for 36 yards.

Defensively, Guzman had 17 tackles while Cira Haqq, Rowan Fonseca and Rowland had 10 apiece.

South Haven ended its season at 5-4.

Lawton gets ready for playoffs

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton's football, team is 7-2 and will host Constantine in the playoffs this Friday.

"We know Constantine very well, we just played them last week. We won 23-14, so we know we can beat them, but we have to play well and execute. They are a well coached team, and it is very difficult to play a team in back to back weeks," Lawton coach AJ High said.

"We have to execute the game plan in all 3 phases of the game. We have to be relentless and play our brand of physical football. We take care of the football on offense and force turnovers on defense. Our district is very tough, it is one of the toughest districts in the Division 7. With Schoolcraft ranked 9th, us ranked 10th, and Constantine ranked 11th in Division 7."

High added:

"We have improved all season, and have played some of our best football in the second half of the season. We went 7-2 overall (4-1 in the SAC Valley) while playing 6 of 9 playoff teams. Beat a good D5 United team. Broke our school record for points in a game with 70. Have outscored our opponents 320-174 during the regular season."

After nine games, Lawton had a 3,118-1,794 advantage in total years over its opponents this season.

In Friday's win over Constantine, Brady Quick was 4-of-6 in passing for 52 yards. Owen Matthies had 56 yards rushing and a touchdown. Hudson Merriman had 47 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Brady Quick was 35-of-53 in passing for 512 yards and has rushed for 1149 yards. Rushing leaders are G. Burrous with 734 yards, Caiden Mitchell with 418 and Wyatt Streeter with 405.

Gobles enjoys seventh football win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers continued their excellent offensive season on Friday night, defeating St. Joseph Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic 62-50 in a high-scoring contest that featured over 1,100 yards of combined offense. With the victory, Gobles improved to 7-2 behind a punishing ground attack that racked up 612 rushing yards and nine touchdowns.

"This team total for rushing yards ranks as the 7th most in MHSAA 8-Player history for a single game. The rushing touchdown total ties for 4th all-time in MHSAA history," Gobles coach Greg Eichler said.

Senior quarterback Steven Juarez led the charge for Gobles, turning in a remarkable performance with 364 rushing yards and four touchdowns on 23 carries, while also completing five passes for 67 yards through the air. Juarez's combination of speed and vision consistently broke open long runs, keeping Our Lady's defense on its heels all night.

Running back Nathan Ray added 109 yards and four touchdowns on 17 carries, converting three two-point attempts and providing steady production in the red zone. Aiden Beam contributed 111 yards on just eight carries, while Case Lord found the end zone once on a 23-yard score.

"All together, the Tigers averaged an impressive 11.5 yards per carry, relying on strong line play and relentless physicality to control the tempo," Eichler said. "Up front, Conner (5 pancake blocks) and Salinas (3 pancake blocks) anchored a dominant offensive line that paved the way for 46 first downs and nearly 700 total yards of offense.

"Defensively, Gobles produced several key takeaways to slow Twin City's high-powered offense. Ray led the unit with 14 tackles, including two for loss, a forced fumble, and two fumble recoveries. Juarez added 12 tackles, two tackles for loss, and a forced fumble, while Brett Ivester recorded two sacks and five quarterback pressures to disrupt the passing game. Danny Timms secured an interception to halt a Twin City drive, and Beam forced a fumble as Gobles' defense came up with three total takeaways."

Eichler added:

"Despite giving up some big plays on defense, the Tigers' ability to generate turnovers and finish drives proved to be the difference. Gobles averaged nearly 10 yards per play and scored on nine possessions, holding off a late Twin City rally to secure the win."

Gobles ready for playoffs

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles football coach Greg Eichler and his players are set for the 8-man playoffs.

Gobles is 7-2 and is home on Friday against Climax Scotts.

"They are a well-coached team and a program that consistently gets into the playoffs," coach Greg Eichler said. "They play a physical brand of football, and they want to run the ball in several different ways. Overall, they are difficult to stop and they will be a great challenge in the first round.

"We expected our region to play out like it did. It's going to take great preparation and paying attention to the small details. In the playoffs, it's all about limiting the mistakes and putting our kids in the right positions to make plays. I think we have the toughest 8-man region in the state. We look forward to the challenge."

Eichler added:

"Our team finished the year fairly strong, but we need to continue playing complete games and taking care of the small details. We came back after being down a few touchdowns in our week 9 game, which was really impressive. Even though we didn't expect the game to play out like it did, our kids made a huge leap by battling through adversity and coming back when we were in a corner.

"It's all of the basic fundamentals: blocking and tackling. It doesn't need to be any more complex than that. If we can execute up front and tackle well, we will be fine.

Offensive leaders for the team (and stats)

Here are notables through week 7.

#2 Nathan Ray (Senior)
79 Rushes for 584 yards, 8 rushing TDs, 2 receptions for 73 yards, 1 reception TD
45 tackles, 4 TFl, 1.5 sacks, 6 QB pressures, 3 pass deflections, 1 fumble recovery

#3 Steven Juarez (Senior)
41 rushes for 286 yards, 1 rushing TD, 13-24 passing for 240 yards and 3 TDs
33 tackles, 8 TFL, 3.5 sacks, 8 QB pressures, 2 interceptions, 1 pass deflection

#4 Case Lord (Freshman)
57 rushes for 358 yards, 7 rushing TD, 4-8 passing for 43 yards and 1 TD
17 tackles, 1 pass deflection, 2 fumble recovery

#7 Hunter Piper (Junior)
3 receptions for 98 yards
33 tackles (4 TFL), 1.5 sacks, 6 QB pressures, 2 interceptions, 1 pass deflection

#77 Tucker Greffe (Senior)
13 Pancake Blocks and playing consistently well at center

Gobles runners win regional title by one point

Gobles cross country state qualifiersL Front row L - R: Libby Smith, Taylor Cooley, Addison Tomsic, Lauren Shaffer, Ava DeYoung Alyssa Sparks
Back row L - R: Fletcher Amos, Ismael Ramos Martinez, Cole Cannon, Titus Sager, Levi Collins, David Sager, Cole Ringel, Jose Boger, Jaxon Bunce

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles' cross country team won by the narrowest of margins in the regional meet.

After falling to Martin at the SAC Finals in a tie breaker on Oct. 9, the Lady Tigers edged out the Clippers by 1 point, 32-33 (like golf, low score wins) to capture their second consecutive Regional Cross Country title last weekend.

"With the race that close, any drop in with Martin would result in a second-place finish," coach Marc Kline said. "There are a dozens of little stories to tell about the heart of this team. Today was a day for the seniors. Although Madison Cooley didn't know it at the time, her kick past a Martin athlete in the last 100 meters would be one of many reasons the Tigers repeated as Regional Champions. Addison Tomsic had a PR and a huge season record, improving from her previous best this year by 46 seconds, coming within two places of a medal. Taylor Cooley also set a huge PR, almost breaking 23-minute mark and improving on her previous best by almost a minute and a half.

Place finishers: Libby Smith - 1st place, Lauren Shaffer - 5th place, Ava DeYoung - 9th place, Madison Cooley - 15th place, Addison Tomsic - 17th place and PR (22:33.16), Taylor Cooley - 22nd place and a PR (23:04.53), and Alyssa Sparks - 31st place.

"It was an exciting first race of the morning, but the excitement wasn't over," Kline said.

"The Gobles Boys cross-country team also placed high enough (3rd place) to qualify for the state finals. The Tigers edged out Fowler 107-108 (again, low score wins). The reason the boys were able to qualify was simple - their pack. Only 46 seconds separated the first runner from the fifth runner (17:50.4 to 18:46.2). With a pack that tight, they have been a much-improved team this year. Senior captain and leader, David Sager, would not be denied this year. He started leading the Tigers on the course and didn't allow that little voice inside saying things like "slow down, it hurts", "this is too hard", or "I can't do it".

"He persevered to the end and ran 17:50.4, placing 17th (1 minute and 6 seconds faster than his season-best from August and 40 seconds faster than his PR). Fletcher Amos was only six-tenths of a second behind and placed 18th. Cole Ringel placed 21st, Jaxon Bunce 32nd (set a PR of 18:46.0), Cole Cannon 33rd (also set a PR of 18:46.2), Levi Collins 34th, and Titus Sager 52nd, just one second off his PR. As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Keep working and making each other better."

The state finals are on Nov. 1 at Michigan International Speedway.

Regional Champion Libby Smith

9th Place Ava DeYoung

5th Place Lauren Shaffer

15th Place Madison Cooley

Mattawan runners qualify for state finals

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan has two runners going to the state cross country finals Saturday Oct. 25 in the

MHSAA Regionals Region 3 at Portage West Middle School

For the men's varsity, Mattawan was ninth out of 14 Marcel Stork was seventh place and Owen Fisher ninth place and qualified for the MHSAA State finals at MIS in Brooklyn, Michigan on Nov. 1.

Women's finished 13th out of 14 teams.

For Mattawan girls, Kate Barron was 33rd (20:33.45), Natalie Barron was 61st (22:07.59), Tana Drobeck was 65th (22:15.71), Claire Yakiwchuk 68th (23:52.25), Julie Navratilova 89th (24:21.17) and Livia Howard 91st (24:28.05).

For the boys, Marcel Stork was seventh (15:50.49), Fisher was ninth (15:53.90), Trevor Nagra was 55th (17:11.37), Braeden Gildea (17:32.31), Tanner Christensen was 69th (17:42.28), Caleb Elwell 77th (18:04.43) and Lincoln Davis 87th (18:53.18).

Paw Paw runners

Paw Paw's cross country team was seventh out of 16 boys.

For the Wolves, Christopher Vogt was 13th (16:34.93), Landon Lindsay was 17th (16:47.23), Grant Krause 22nd (17:04.47), Brady Meloche 42nd (17:51.78), Frank Wunderlich 72nd (18:41.77), and David Pokorny 84th (19:17.44).

For the girls, Hayden Lemieux was 19th (20:24.86), Sophia Limieux was 62nd (22:44.12). Alicia Shipley was 65th (22:50.39). Nyala Resseguie was 88th (24:13.28).

Lawton runner qualifies for state finals

Lawton's Anika Weurding has qualified for the state finals.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — At Saturday's D3 Regional in Portage, Lawton junior Anika Weurding improved her personal best cross country time by one minute, finishing in 21:44.

Her medalist performance of 14th place qualified her for Saturday's State Finals at Michigan International Speedway.

Weurding consistently improved her time all season. She started off 17th at the Viking Stampede on Aug. 15 in 24:48,7. She was 32nd in 25:15.16 at the Sturgis Kickoff Classic. Then was 28th in 24:37.9 on Sept. 6 in the 65th annual Fennville Open.

A few days later, Weurding was 46th in the SAC Conference jamboree No. 1 in 24:20.0 and later was 19th in 24:32.8 a the Mendon Invitational.

Weurding ran the Laker Coed Invitational and was 91st in 27:11.17. She was 13th a the Irish Fox & Hound Race in 25:05.5. Next was the SAC No. 2 jamboree and she was 33rd in 23:53.7. At the Portage Invitational on Oct. 4, Weurding was 143rd in 23:33. She was 30th in the SAC Jamboree No. 3 in 22:44.4 and second in the Heritage Christian Academy meet in 22:43.1. Prior to the regionals, she was 66th at the Kalamazoo Christian Comet Invitational in 23:59.0.

Bangor soccer loses in regional finals

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor's soccer season ended on Oct. 23 in the regional finals with an 6-0 loss to Grandville Calvin Christian.

But on Oct 21, Bangor won a thriller, 2-1 in overtime.

"I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who braved the cold and rainy weather last night to support our Vikings," coach Antonio Robles said after the win. "Once again, the Vikings demonstrated incredible resilience, coming from behind to secure an exciting overtime victory. The winning moment happened in dramatic fashion, with Giovani Soriano-Ramirez scoring a spectacular goal off a brilliant assist from Carlos Villalobos.

Game stats: Giovani Soriano-Ramirez 2 Goals;

Carlos Villalobos 1 assist;

Ismael Rodriguez (Goalkeeper) 4 saves.

Bangor's final record was 6-12-3.

South Haven soccer in state semifinals

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's boys soccer team is 17-4-4 and will play Fremont (20-0-2) on Wednesday, Oct. 29, in the state semifinals at Cedar Springs.

On Oct. 23, South Haven won the regional title with a 3-2 overtime win over Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Fennville.

Aron Moreno scored South Haven's first goal. Leif Arboreal had the second goal, assisted by Noah Weaver who also assisted the third goal, scored by August Zoet.

Coach Randy Bautista commented: "After struggling in the first half, we were down 2-1 at halftime but the boys raised their level right away to begin the second half and scored within a few minutes. We competed throughout the second half but we had to go to overtime; then in the second overtime, we scored with seven minutes left. We held hem off.

"It was a memorable night for the boys and everybody that came out to support us; This run has been great and we're happy we could put South Haven back on the regional and state map. We're excited for Wednesday."

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS
AUGUST 20, 2025

Almena Township Board meeting was held August 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Attendance: John Wagner, Scott Rueff, Mark Roman, Joe Leduc
Absent (excused) Sandra Rickli, Kelly Redmond, Tim Kloosterman

a. Motion passed to approve amended agenda
b. Motion passed to approve amended meeting minutes of July 16, 2025
c. Disbursements approved in the amount of $114,078.62
d. Motion to approve payment to Cornerstone Construction
e. Commissioner/Sheriff's Dept./Mattawan Fire Dept. reports
f. Public comment offered
g. Reports by officers presented
h. Motion passed to approve funding to correct Bluebird Avenue
i. Motion passed to approve funding the Almena Revolving Road Fund
j. Public comment offered
k. Meeting adjourned 7:55pm

Sandra Rickli, Clerk,
Almena Township

State of Michigan
36th Judicial Circuit - Family Division
Van Buren County
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
CASE NO. 25020197NA
TO: BRANDON WHALEY
IN THE MATTER OF:
BRANDON WHALEY JR

A hearing regarding **Family Court Bench Trial** will be conducted by the court on **November 18,2025 (11/18/2025)** at **1:00 pm** in Courtroom 2, 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 before Judge Jeffrey Dufon.
You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by judge or jury.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that BRANDON WHALEY personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above.
This hearing may result in Court Jurisdiction over your minor children.

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO 2025-1157 DE
212 E. Paw Paw Street, #220,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-8225
Estate of Arthur Ray Swisher, Deceased Date of Birth:* December 29, 1924

TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Arthur Ray Swisher, Deceased , died October 8, 2024 .**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Timothy S. Swisher** , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, **#220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
October 22, 2025
Attorney:
Willis Law
Davis C. Martin #P84717
491 W. South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 492-1040
Personal representative
Timothy S. Swisher
56881 65-1/2 Street
Hartford, MI 49057
(269) 621-4532

State of Michigan
Probate Court
County of Van Buren
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
File No. 2025-1159-DE
In the matter of
STEPHEN P. KOENIG, deceased
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
Elizabeth Amstein, James Koenig, David Koenig, Kathleen Koenig, Daniel Koenig,
and Unknown Heirs whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on **November 6,2025 at 10:30 a.m.** at Van Buren County Probate Court before Judge Susan Metzger #P62867 for the following purpose:
Petition for Probate and/ or Appointment of Personal Representative
October 7,2025
Attorney
Nicole M. Laruwe #P75562
7 West Square Lake Road
Bloomingfield Hills, MI 48302
248-648-1148
Petitioner
Cynthia Frankfort
1225 Luther Lane, Unit 103
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

State of Michigan
36th Judicial District Judicial Circuit County Probate
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/ POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE NO. 2025-074988-CH
Court address: 212 East Paw Paw Street, Suite 130, Paw Paw, MI 49079
Court Telephone: 269-657-8200

Plaintiff Name: Ronald Gipson
6325 Twilight Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
c/o Plaintiff's Counsel
V.
Defendant Name(s)
Raymond Dunnigan, address unknown;
Leo Dunnigian,
Ron Boyd,
Fred Dunnigan, Jr.,
Raymond Gipson
851 Lay Blvd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49001; and
Marvella Walker
151 Main St., Apt 310
Park Forest, IL 60466
-
Plaintiff's Attorney
Ean P. Hamilton (P79755)
Hamilton Law, PLC
3431 Oakland Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-488-8394
ean@hamiltonlawplc.com
TO: Raymond Dunnigan, Leo Dunnigan, Fred Dunnigan, Jr,\., Ron Boyd, Raymond Gipson, and Marvella Walker
IT IS ORDERED:
1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to quiet title to real property located at: 37441 36th Avenue, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before_____ so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in three consecutive weeks, Courier Leader and Paw Paw Flashes

October 13, 2025
Judge
Susan Metzger
P62867

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Denise A. Hill; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 25-012407; Insurer: FNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jeffery M. Hill and Denise A. Hill, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, Mortgagee, dated July 21, 2003 and recorded July 30, 2003 in Liber 1391, Page 489 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-One and 41/100 Dollars ($90,321.41).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 2025.
Said premises are located in the City of Hartford, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lots 45 and 46 Parascandolo Addition No. 1, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, on Page 16 and as amended by Van Buren County Circuit Court as recorded in Liber 476 on Page 368.
122 Paras Hill, Hartford, Michigan 49057
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: October 9, 2025
File No. 25-012407
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Frederick D. Cornelius; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 455668F05; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frederick D. Cornelius, a married man, fee simple
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Date of Mortgage: March 21, 2003
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 14, 2003
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $144,451.62
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The North 22 acres of the South 42 5/8 acres of the East 70.5 acres of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, except the North 7 acres thereof.
Common street address (if any): 61398 40th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9753
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1573962

(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danielle M Mitchell; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 25-002860-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Danielle M. Mitchell, a single woman and Adrian Mitchell, a single man Original Mortgagee: Superior National Bank Date of mortgage: November 10, 2022 Recorded on November 23, 2022, Liber 1746, on Page 237, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Five and 15/100 Dollars ($157,905.15) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 67 and the East 7.9 feet off the East side of Lot 66 of Village of Bloomingdale, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 25 of Plats, Page 10, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 305 E Kalamazoo St, Bloomingdale, MI 49026 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1574216

(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danny J Clendenin; Atty: PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY - PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 24-031214; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on November 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagors: Danny J & Angelene Clendenin, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: March 13, 2012 Recorded on March 15, 2012, Book 1563, on Page 519. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Four and 46/100 Dollars ($142,304.46) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County and described as: LOT 32, WOODHENGE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 6 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 27, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Commonly known as 22327 Woodhenge Dr, Mattawan MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031214

(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Pamela S. Bolden; Atty: Holzman, Ritter & Leduc, PLLC - Holzman Corkery, PLLC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Pamela S. Bolden, an unmarried person, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated August 4, 2022, and recorded on August 9, 2022, in Liber 1741, on Page 964, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars and 79/100 Dollars ($8,647.79) plus accrued interest at 7.0% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Antwerp, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 10, RIDGELAWN SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Liber 6, Page 23 of Plats, Van Buren County Records. Commonly: 28859 Violet Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079—Tax Id #80-02-415-010-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: October 9, 2025 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340

(10-09)(11-06)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Kay O`Neil; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/23/2025; Atty File #: 25-002950-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Kay O`Neil and Cameron Richardson, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Neighborhood Loans, Inc. Date of mortgage: May 17, 2024 Recorded on May 28, 2024, Liber 1766, on Page 258, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Two and 05/100 Dollars ($190,942.05) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3, Block 1, Union Addition to Lawton, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 10 of plats, Page 540, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 415 S Main St, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1575520

(10-23)(11-13)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Richard A Eisner; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/23/2025; Atty File #: 25-002985-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Richard A. Eisner and Sharon K. Eisner, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Household Bank, FSB Date of mortgage: September 7, 2001 Recorded on September 21, 2001, Liber 1340, on Page 71, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2014-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Five and 65/100 Dollars ($46,535.65) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 1 of Bangor Heights, according to the recorded plat thereof, being a subdivision of part of Lot 3 and Lot 16, Supervisor`s Plat of Zuhl Addition to Bangor, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats on Page 40, and adjacent land in the north half of section 7, town 2 south, range 15 west, according to the Government Survey thereof. Commonly known as 29449 Eastwood Ln, Bangor, MI 49013 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2014-3 Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1575530

(10-23)(11-13)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Wesley B Ready Jr; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 10/30/2025; Atty File #: 24MI00680-2; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Wesley B Ready Jr. and Teresa Taylor-Ready, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Primelending, A Plainscapital Company , its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 30, 2021, and recorded on October 12, 2021, in Liber 1727, Page 298, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 23, 2025 and recorded April 23, 2025 in Liber 1778, Page 114, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Two and 07/100 ($202,892.07) including interest at the rate of 3.62500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning at the center of Section 21, Town 1 South, Range 14 West; Thence North 89 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds West on the East and West 1/4 line 305.00 feet; Thence North parallel with the North and South 1/4 line, 385 feet; Thence South 89 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds East parallel with the East and West 1/4 line 305.00 feet to the North and South 1/4 line, Thence South on same, 385.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 13756 41ST ST, BLOOMINGDALE, MI 49026 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: October 30, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 24MI00680-2

(10-30)(11-20)

Community invited to Michigan ballot initiatives overview

PAW PAW - Indivisible Paw Paw invites community members to a comprehensive "Know Before You Sign" presentation, designed to inform voters about the more than a dozen ballot initiatives currently circulating in Michigan. Indivisible Paw Paw is a non-partisan organization.

The event will be held Nov. 1, at the Paw Paw District Library Community Room, 609 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. Beginning at 1 p.m, attendees are welcome to join the Indivisible general meeting, followed by the "Know Before You Sign" presentation at 1:30 p.m.

The session, presented by Nomi Joyrich, Michigan director of Jews for a Secular Democracy, aims to provide clear, unbiased information about each initiative, empowering citizens to make informed decisions before signing any petitions.

Participants may attend in person or join remotely via Zoom. To register for the online option, visit https://bit.ly/knowb4paw.

This event is co-sponsored by Indivisible Paw Paw and Jews For A Secular Democracy, organizations dedicated to promoting civic engagement and informed voting practices.

For more information, contact Indivisible Paw Paw at: indivisiblepawpaw@gmail.com.

Murder in the City delights all at Pullman fundraiser

The plot thickened when Beautify Pullman President Deb Laraway and Security Sam discovered the of body of gambler Ace High. The guests began questioning the characters – other gamblers, the casino owner, waitress, call girls, and more. By putting together clues, the murderer was discovered. Photo: Bill Pyke

Poker Chips came in handy as guests to Sin City's Paramount Casino tried their luck at the Roulette table, Blackjack and other casino games. Photo: Bill Pyke

By Gari Voss

Beautify Pullman's Fall Fundraiser Murder in Sin City at the Fenn Valley Vinyard on Saturday, October 25, 2025, did not disappoint. The cast of characters from the owner of the Paramount Casino to the gamblers and call girls and even a senator played their parts to the delight of the guests to the Casino.

Everyone was given an envelope with poker chips and clues about the characters. Questions could be asked of the politician, the sexy showgirls, the devious gamblers, and even the cunning cocktail waitress. No one was beyond reproach once the body was discovered.

Once the body of Ace High was discovered game was afoot, and everyone was a suspect.

The almost 100 partygoers were able to enjoy appetizers while playing casino games and getting to know the characters. Raffle tickets were purchased, and hopeful buyers slid their tickets into the boxes of the coveted gifts.

During and after a delightful dinner of specialty soups and sandwiches plus a variety of desserts, characters were grilled and tables of visitors began organizing what they had learned. By the end of the evening, the best sleuths were awarded and lucky tickets drawn.

Beautify Pullman will use the proceeds to continue the activities in the Town Square – Farmers Market, summer concerts, etc. In addition, they will continue working on gathering donations to create the Safe Route to School.

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Just visit our website @epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com to start your $20.00 email Subscription.

WANTED
Sales Reps

THIS NEWSPAPER is looking for sales representatives to call on local businesses and sell them advertisements in our area newspapers.

- The position would initially be part-time, but could quickly work into full-time
- Work from home or from our office
- You can set your own schedule
- Pay is commission-based
- **Previous sales experience not required, but is preferred**

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wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com **for more info**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Paw Paw Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. The public is invited to comment on the matter.

Application:
- Request: Variance for a new home to be constructed with a 12-foot front setback instead of the required 50-foot minimum front setback. The variance request relates to Chapter 42, Article 6, Attachment 3 of the Paw Paw Township Zoning Ordinance (dimensional requirements)
- Zoning District: Waterfront Area (WFR)
- Project Address: 69211 Eagle Drive, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Project Parcel Number: 80-14-430-026-00
- Applicant: Jeremy Vainavicz (Field and Vine Development Group)

Meeting Information:
- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

Bloomingdale Township

NOW ACCEPTING BIDS

Bloomingdale Township is currently accepting bids for Janitorial Services Contractor at the Bloomingdale Municipal Center. Interested parties will need to be licensed and insured. Please contact Supervisor Matt Ashbrook or Clerk Melanie Kelly for project details. Please mail sealed bids to Bloomingdale Township, PO Box 11, Bloomingdale, MI 49026. Or, hand deliver to drop box or office located at 109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, MI 49026

Melanie Kelly, Bloomingdale Township Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that **The Shed Self Storage,** phone **(269) 200-2156**, located at **72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065** will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at **www.LockerFox.com.** Auction will close on or after **Wednesday November 26, 2025 at 10:00 am.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold:
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BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP INVITATION TO BID

The Township of Bloomingdale will be accepting sealed bids for Seasonal Mowing/ Plowing of the listed properties for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 seasons. This will be a two-year contract beginning April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028. Bids should also include Seasonal Snowplowing of the Fire Station property, Bear Lake access, Muskrat Lake access, Mud Lake Drive, and the Municipal Building parking lot behind the building for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 seasons.

Plowing
- Plow Fire Station whenever 3 inches or more of snow falls.
- Plow Muskrat and Bear Lake Fire Lane accesses whenever 6 inches of snow falls.
- Plow Mud Lake Drive whenever 3 inches or more of snow falls.
- Plow back parking lot of Municipal Building whenever 3 inches or more of snow falls.
- Front and sidewalks of Municipal Building must be shoveled whenever 3 inches of snow falls

Mowing
- Mowing Fire Station when grass reaches between 3-4 inches
- Spring and Fall Clean-up at Fire Station

The Township Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Bids must be listed at a per year rate for both mowing and plowing. Proof of Insurance must be provided with bid. Bids will be opened and contract awarded during the Regular Board Meeting of Bloomingdale Township Board at 7:00 p.m., December 17, 2025.

Send (or drop off) sealed bids to Bloomingdale Township office by 12:00 p.m. on December 17, 2025. For more information, contact the Bloomingdale Township office, 109 E. Kalamazoo Street, P.O. Box 11, Bloomingdale, MI 49026, or by phone Matthew Ashbrook (269) 521-3800 ext. 1.

Melanie Kelly, Clerk

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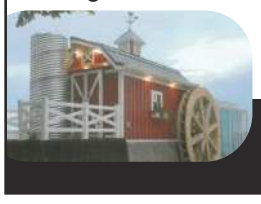

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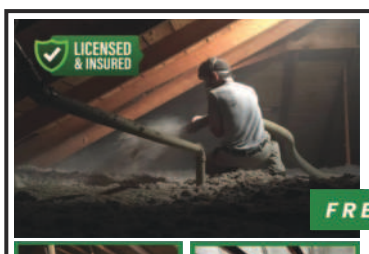

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